

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **DOWNZONING LIGHTENS SCHOOL OVERCROWDING, PRESERVES GREEN SPACE FROM TOWSON TO KINGSVILLE**

On August 30th, the Baltimore County Council passed a historic downzoning of land in the Fifth District, preserving hundreds of acres of green space and lightening the impact of school overcrowding.

At my request, [the Baltimore County Council applied Neighborhood Commons](#)—or open space zoning—to publicly-owned properties throughout the Fifth District. In Towson, for example, [we protected the Greenwood Mansion lawn along Charles Street](#), as well as the Rodgers Forge lot and Towson Manor Park. [The County Council protected 167 acres of sensitive land along the scenic Cromwell Bridge Road corridor](#), and 113 acres along White Marsh Boulevard.

[I took steps to deal with the overcrowding crisis at Perry Hall Middle School](#), downzoning 1,268 acres in eastern Perry Hall. I do not relish downzoning this much land, which I know will be opposed by some property owners, but we cannot allow development to occur at the rate allowed by the current zoning while schools get more and more crowded.



Councilman Marks unveiled his Perry Hall downzoning plan on August 25th.

Perry Hall Middle School's enrollment is expected to climb to 2,048 students by 2024. Perry Hall High School's enrollment will jump to 2,498 students in 2024. The downzoning of land will lighten future overcrowding and give the Board of Education time to move forward on solutions. To stay informed, follow www.facebook.com/newnortheastschools.

TOWSON TOWN CENTER ESTABLISHES YOUTH ESCORT POLICY

Towson Town Center has announced that a Parental Guidance Required program will be implemented beginning September 16. The program requires all mall visitors after 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays that are 17 years old and under to be accompanied by a parent or supervising adult who is at least 21 years old. The program includes the covered parking garage and all exterior sidewalks. Councilman Marks asked mall management to consider this type of program after a disturbance in December. For more information, visit

<https://www.towsontowncenter.com/en.html>.

PARK AND TREE PLANTINGS ADVANCE IN EASTERN TOWSON



East Towson will be the site of streetscape and park improvements paid for by Evergreen Homes, the developer of the Towson Mews neighborhood, pursuant to a resolution offered by Councilman David Marks and passed by the Baltimore County Council in 2015.

The streetscape improvements include the planting of nearly 40 trees in Towson Manor Village. [The park development effort will involve improvements at Adelaide Bentley Park.](#) NeighborSpace recently issued an RFP for the park project, and the Towson Manor Village Community Association has developed a plan for the tree plantings.

PRESBYTERIAN HOME LANDMARK HEARING SET FOR OCTOBER 13

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will consider historic status for the former site of the Presbyterian Home of Maryland on Thursday, October 13 at 6 p.m. in the Jefferson Building, south of the Historic Courthouse. To learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTheBosleyMansion>.



SCHOOL RENOVATIONS CONTINUE, FOCUS TURNS TO NEW BUILDINGS

This fall, Carney and Joppa View Elementary Schools were air conditioned. The four remaining elementary schools serving the Fifth District without air conditioning—Chapel Hill, Kingsville, Oakleigh, and Pleasant Plains—will be air conditioned by the start of the 2017 academic year. Dumbarton Middle School will open in 2018 after a two-year renovation that includes air conditioning.

With these improvements underway, Councilman Marks is pushing for a renewed focus on school overcrowding. In the northeast, that means a new middle school and high school—or an addition at a nearby middle school, and a high school. **Councilman Marks and the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will sponsor a community meeting on Thursday, October 6 at 6 p.m. in the Perry Hall High School cafeteria.**

In the central part of the county, Councilman Marks will be working with parents and other elected officials on a renovation plan for Towson High School, built in 1949. [Advocates for Towson High School](#) will hold a community meeting on Monday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Towson library.

PERRY HALL APPLE FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPTEMBER 17 AND 18

The Perry Hall Apple Festival will be held on September 17 and 18 at Chapel Hill Farm and Nursery in Perry Hall. Visit <http://perryhallapplefestival.com> for more information. Councilman Marks is a proud sponsor of the entertainment at this event.

